

amplifying device, wherein said thickness T corresponds to a sum of the thickness of the sensing member and a length of the protrusions.

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Shabman and Supervisory Patent Examiner Williams during the telephone interview of July 6, 2009. During the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that the prior art of record does not teach the limitations of amended claims 1 and 10. See Interview Summary. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1 and 10, presented herein, are consistent with the amendments proposed to the Examiner during the interview.

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cimmino (PCT/AU00/00383); the § 103(a) rejection of claim 11 over Cimmino in view of Cundari (US 6,179,790); and the § 103(a) rejection of claims 4-6 and 9 over Cimmino in view of Cruz-Hernandez (US 6,445,284).

Amended independent claims 1 and 10 recite, among other things, a convexo concave amplifying device “wherein the exhibiting member comprises a plurality of protrusions formed directly on a surface of the sensing member.” The amendment is supported in the present application, e.g., at paragraph [0074], and is not new matter. Moreover, as described below, Applicant submits that none of the cited references disclose or suggest at least this feature of claims 1 and 10. Therefore, no combination of Cimmino, Cundari, and Cruz-Hernandez render the claims obvious.

Cimmino, discloses a transducer comprising “a pair of coaxial interposed helical conductors A and B embedded in an elastic dielectric material 11,” wherein “the transducer is bonded on one side along its length to a flexible non-extensible base surface 13.” Cimmino at page 3, lines 18-20 and lines 28-29. The conductors A, B (which the Examiner alleged in the Office Action as corresponding to the exhibiting member of the claims) are not directly formed on the base surface 13 (which the Examiner alleged in the Office Action as corresponding to the sensing member of the claims) because the dielectric material 11 is disposed between the conductors A, B and the base surface 13. See Cimmino at Figs. 2(a), 2(b). Additionally, in some embodiments, as depicted, for example, in Figs. 1(a), 1(d), 1(e), 1(f), and 1(g), both the dielectric material 11 and the adhesive 12 are disposed between the conductors A, B and the base surface 13. Cimmino, therefore, does not disclose or suggest a convexo concave amplifying device “wherein the exhibiting member comprises a plurality of protrusions formed directly on a surface of the sensing member,” as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Cruz-Hernandez discloses a tactile transducer including, for example, a plurality of rods 50 that are collectively bonded to an array of actuators 52 via a bonding layer 51, as depicted in Fig. 3A. The actuators 52 actuate the rods 50, causing gaps 58 between the tips of the rods 50 to vary in size, thereby providing a tactile sensation on skin, as described at column 8, lines 60-65 and column 5, lines 50-55. Cruz-Hernandez does not, however, disclose a sensing member. For example, Cruz-Hernandez discloses the bonding layer 51 as structurally attaching the rods 50 to the actuators 52, but not detecting the convexo concave of an object. Because Cruz-Hernandez does not

disclose a sensing member, it cannot disclose forming a plurality of protrusions directly on a surface of a sensing member, as recited in claims 1 and 10, and does not cure the deficiencies of Cimmino.

Moreover, Cruz-Hernandez, teaches away from forming a plurality of protrusions directly on a surface of a sensing member. For example, Cruz-Hernandez discloses that “[w]hen supported by a pre-formed substrate, these tips may conform to a shape that is ergometrically efficient or which enhances the coupling of the tips with the contacting object” at column 2, lines 59-62. Attaching the rods 50 to a flexible sensing member as disclosed in the present application, as opposed to attaching the rods 50 to the pre-formed substrate as taught in Cruz-Hernandez, would cause the rods 50 of Cruz-Hernandez to be unsuitable for their intended purpose, because the tips of the rods 50 would not conform to a shape that is ergometrically efficient as disclosed in Cruz-Hernandez.

Cundari discloses an array 104, depicted in Figs. 2 and 2A, that includes a plurality of polymer material layers and that may be used on a tissue examination device. Cundari does not disclose an exhibiting member or a plurality of protrusions, and therefore does not cure the deficiencies of Cimmino and Cruz-Hernandez.

In summary, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a convexo concave amplifying device “wherein the exhibiting member comprises a plurality of protrusions formed directly on a surface of the sensing member,” as recited in claims 1 and 10. Therefore, Cimmino, Cruz-Hernandez, and Cundari, alone or in combination, do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 1-12, 34, and 35.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12, 34, and 35.

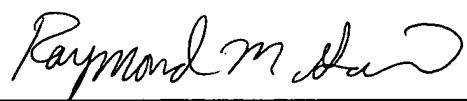
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Respectfully submitted,

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